

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- Sub 32
1. A method of providing medical care, comprising operations of:
a mobile care entity providing a network of predesignated mobile clinicians;
the mobile care entity providing the clinicians with use of preprogrammed portable computers, each portable computer coupled to a wireless communications interface and including local storage of patient data;
according to a predetermined schedule, each portable computer updating patient data in the local storage by utilizing the wireless communications interface to download updates from a central storage facility;
the mobile care entity receiving a request for medical services at a patient's premises, and responsive thereto, selecting one of the predesignated mobile clinicians and dispatching the selected clinician to the patient's premises;
the clinician visiting the patient's premises accompanied by a preselected collection of electronic medical care devices;
the clinician examining the patient, including selecting and operating one or more of the medical care devices to analyze one or more aspects of the patient's condition and prepare representative outputs;
the clinician directing the portable computer to perform follow-up operations comprising:
electronically collecting the outputs and presenting them in human-readable form;

21 storing a machine-readable record including observations from the clinician's
22 examination of the patient; and
23 utilizing the wireless communications interface to transmit the machine-
24 readable record to the central storage facility.

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1 6. The method of claim 1, the clinician further directing the portable computer to
2 perform operations comprising:

3 directing the portable computer and wireless communications interface to transmit
4 selected machine-readable reports and records to a patient referral source;

5 7. The method of claim 1, the operations further comprising:

6 each portable computer tracking and recording various event times related to the
7 patient visit, including at least one of the following: dispatch time, travel time,
8 patient visit time.

9 8. The method of claim 1, the downloading of updates from the central storage facility
10 being performed via the public Internet.

11 9. The method of claim 1, the operation of utilizing the wireless communications
12 interface to transmit the machine-readable record to the central storage facility comprising:
13 transmitting the record to the central storage facility via the public Internet.

14 10. The method of claim 1, the operation of the clinician examining the patient further
15 comprising:

16 the clinician interconnecting one or more sensors between the patient and the
17 portable computer;

18 the clinician directing the portable computer to gather machine-readable
19 representations of bodily conditions measured by the sensors, and transmit

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the representations via the wireless communications interface to a remotely located electronic medical care device; and
the portable computer communicating with the remotely located device to obtain a machine-readable output representing analysis performed by the remotely located device.

11. The method of claim 10, the operation of obtaining, a machine-readable output representing analysis performed by the remotely located device further comprising:
the portable computer presenting the results in human-readable form to the clinician.

12. The method of claim 1, the operation of the clinician examining the patient further comprising:
the clinician directing the portable computer and communications interface to cooperatively engage in machine-readable communications with a remotely located electronic medical care device to report bodily conditions of the patient to the remotely located device and receive analysis based thereon.

13. The method of claim 12, the remotely located electronic medical care device including an ultrasound machine.

14. The method of claim 1, the operations further comprising:
the clinician directing the portable computer and communications interface to obtain

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information provided by Internet web sites.

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15. The method of claim 1, the operations further comprising:

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while at the patient's premises, the clinician utilizing the portable computer to place

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orders for medical supplies over the Internet.

16. The method of claim 1, the operations further comprising:

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the operation of receiving a request for medical services at a patient's premises

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comprising the mobile care entity receiving patient medical information

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transmitted by a medical device located at the patient's premises.

17. The method of claim 1, the dispatching of the selected clinician to the patient's premises including sending wireless dispatch information to the selected clinician, including patient medical record information, current medical condition information, and patient location information.

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18. The method of claim 1, the operations further comprising:

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responsive to the request for medical services, transmitting a machine-readable

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notification of the request to a pre-registered party.

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19. The method of claim 1, the operations further comprising:

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responsive to the request for medical services, transmitting a machine-readable

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response to the patient including at least one of the following: posting a

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message upon an Internet web site, transmitting an e-mail message.

20. The method of claim 1, the operations further comprising:
responsive to the request for medical services, transmitting a machine-readable
notification of at least one of the following to the patient: geographic location
of the selected clinician, and expected arrival time of the selected clinician
at the patient's premises.
21. The method of claim 1, the operations further comprising:
responsive to completion of the clinician's visit to the patient, conducting automatic
computer-driven operations including generating and transmitting an e-mail
notification to a pre-registered party.
22. The method of claim 1, the operations further comprising:
responsive to completion of the clinician's visit to the patient, conducting automatic
computer-driven operations including:
scheduling of a follow-up visit; and
transmitting machine-readable notification of the scheduled follow-up visit to
a pre-registered party.
23. The method of claim 1, the operations further comprising:
automated medical-condition monitoring equipment at the patient's premises
generating and transmitting the request for medical services to the mobile

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care entity.

24. The method of claim 1, the follow-up operations further comprising:
the clinician operating the portable computer to prepare and make wireless
transmission of one or more orders for items related to the examination for
delivery to the patient.
25. The method of claim 1, the follow-up operations further comprising:
the clinician operating the portable computer to prepare and make wireless
transmission of information to admit the patient to a hospital.
26. A computer-driven clinician device, comprising:
a wireless Internet-access device;
a medical care device interface;
local storage;
a digital data processor coupled to the device, interface, and local storage, the
processor being programmed to perform operations comprising:
activating the Internet-access device to synchronize patient data contained
in the local storage with data from a remotely located medical records
database according to a predetermined schedule;
utilizing the interface to receive machine-readable outputs from electronic
medical care devices representing analysis of a patient's medical
condition;

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directing the local storage to store a medical record including the machine-readable outputs; and
operating the Internet-access device to transmit the medical record to a remotely located storage facility.

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27. The device of claim 16, where the interface is being a wireless interface.

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28. The device of claim 16, the processor being further programmed to perform operations comprising:

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receiving machine-readable sensor output representing bodily conditions of the

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patient; and

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employing the Internet-access device to transmit the sensor output to one or more

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remotely located electronic medical care devices and request analysis of the

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output by the devices.

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29. The device of claim 16, the operations further comprising:

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receiving a wireless dispatch notification from a remotely located call center.

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30. The device of claim 16, further comprising:

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mapping and location components programmed to identify a geographical location

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of the clinician device and prepare a map with directions to a prescribed

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patient visit site.